

[H.A.S.C. No. 115-1]

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR THE
115TH CONGRESS**

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

**MEETING HELD
JANUARY 12, 2017**



U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

24-296

WASHINGTON : 2017

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR THE 115TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, Thursday, January 12, 2017.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 2:08 p.m., in room 2118, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. William M. “Mac” Thornberry (chairman of the committee) presiding.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM M. “MAC” THORNBERRY, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM TEXAS, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order. Today, we have at this portion three items of official business to consider: adoption of the rules, the security procedures, and the appointment of committee staff.

Before we do that, let me just take a brief moment and welcome returning and new members to the committee and also express some condolences to those members who are here with us for a day and are being forced to leave us after this.

The truth is this is a special committee. Most people believe that it is the President or the military’s job to decide how big the military ought to be and what weapons they ought to have and so forth. If you look at Article 1, Section 8, it says it is Congress’ responsibility to raise and support armies, to provide and maintain a navy, to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces of the United States. That puts the responsibility on our shoulders, and it is a significant responsibility because, as we all know, men and women volunteer to serve our Nation and defend us and put their lives at stake, but they are counting on us.

The rest of the story is, for 55 straight years, Congresses, with majorities from both parties, and Presidents of both parties have found a way to come together and pass a national defense authorization bill, 55 straight years.

Now, there have been some hiccups along the way. It hadn’t always been easy, but that bipartisan tradition of coming together for the men and women who serve for the security of our Nation is also something, I think, that weighs on us and our responsibilities.

This year, we have got to exercise those responsibilities in a world that is growing more dangerous and more complex. We are going to work hard. We are going to have lots of sessions of various kinds, but I am very excited about the tremendous breadth and depth of talent on both sides of the aisle that this committee has. And I very much look forward to working with each of you and the contributions that each of you will make to our product this year.

Let me yield to the distinguished ranking member for any comments he makes before we move on to the rules.

STATEMENT OF HON. ADAM SMITH, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM WASHINGTON, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would merely echo your comments. I think you described the job of this committee very well. It is a great committee. I have been privileged to serve on it for 20 years under a number of different chairs in both parties. I think the fact that we work together in a bipartisan way to produce a very important product every year makes this committee, frankly, unique in the House at this point.

And I have enjoyed working with you, respect the way you run the committee, and I look forward to an interesting year. We have a lot to do, to be sure. But as you said, we have very, very talented members of this committee. And I guess the only thing I would add, which I know you have said many times as well, we also have an incredibly talented staff that does an enormous amount of work and makes this possible. So I thank them as well and look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead.

I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the gentleman.

Let me go ahead and call up Committee Resolution No. 1, regarding the committee rules for the 115th Congress. The clerk will read the resolution.

Dr. BRIGHT. Committee Resolution No. 1. Resolved, that the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, adopt the committee rules for the 115th Congress, which are stated in the copy distributed to each member.

The CHAIRMAN. The proposed committee rules have been developed jointly with the ranking member and made available to members' offices earlier this week following consultation with Mr. Smith.

I ask unanimous consent the resolution be considered as read and the resolution be open to amendment at any point.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

**RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
115TH CONGRESS**

RULE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The Rules of the House of Representatives are the rules of the Committee on Armed Services (hereinafter referred to in these rules as the "Committee") and its subcommittees so far as applicable.

(b) Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's rules shall be publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 30 days after the chair of the committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

RULE 2. FULL COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

(a) The Committee shall meet every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., when the House of Representatives is in session, and at such other times as may be fixed by the Chairman of the Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Chairman"), or by written request of members of the Committee pursuant to clause 2(c) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) A Wednesday meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with by the Chairman, but such action may be reversed by a written request of a majority of the members of the Committee.

RULE 3. SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the Committee on all matters referred to it. Insofar as possible, meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees shall not conflict. A subcommittee Chairman shall set meeting dates after consultation with the Chairman, other subcommittee Chairmen, and the Ranking Minority Member of the subcommittee with a view toward avoiding, whenever possible, simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings.

RULE 4. JURISDICTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) Jurisdiction

(1) The Committee retains jurisdiction of all subjects listed in clause 1(c) and clause 3(b) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives and retains exclusive jurisdiction

for: defense policy generally, ongoing military operations, the organization and reform of the Department of Defense and Department of Energy, counter-drug programs, security and humanitarian assistance (except special operations-related activities) of the Department of Defense, acquisition and industrial base policy, technology transfer and export controls, joint interoperability, detainee affairs and policy, force protection policy and inter-agency reform as it pertains to the Department of Defense and the nuclear weapons programs of the Department of Energy. In addition the committee will be responsible for intelligence policy (including coordination of military intelligence programs), national intelligence programs, and Department of Defense elements that are part of the Intelligence Community. While subcommittees are provided jurisdictional responsibilities in subparagraph (2), the Committee retains the right to exercise oversight and legislative jurisdiction over all subjects within its purview under rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Committee shall be organized to consist of seven standing subcommittees with the following jurisdictions:

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces: All Army, Air Force and Marine Corps acquisition programs (except Marine Corps amphibious assault vehicle programs, strategic missiles, space, lift programs, special operations, science and technology programs, and information technology accounts) and the associated weapons systems sustainment. In addition, the subcommittee will be responsible for Navy and Marine Corps aviation programs and the associated weapons systems sustainment, National Guard and Army, Air Force and Marine Corps Reserve modernization, and ammunition programs.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel: Military personnel policy, Reserve Component integration and employment issues, military health care, military education, and POW/MIA issues. In addition, the subcommittee will be responsible for Morale, Welfare and Recreation issues and programs.

Subcommittee on Readiness: Military readiness, training, logistics and maintenance issues and programs. In addition, the subcommittee will be responsible for all military construction, depot policy, civilian personnel policy, environmental policy, installations and family housing issues, including the base closure process, and energy policy and programs of the Department of Defense.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces: Navy acquisition programs, Naval Reserve equipment, and Marine Corps amphibious assault vehicle programs (except strategic weapons, space, special operations, science and technology programs, and information technology programs), deep strike bombers and related systems, lift programs, seaborne unmanned aerial systems and the associated weapons systems sustainment. In addition, the subcommittee will be responsible for Maritime programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee as delineated in paragraphs 5 and 9 of clause 1(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces: Strategic weapons (except deep strike bombers and related systems), space programs (including national intelligence space programs), ballistic missile defense, the associated weapons systems sustainment, and Department of Energy national security programs.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities: Defense-wide and joint enabling activities and programs to include: Special Operations Forces; counter-proliferation and counter-terrorism programs and initiatives; science and technology policy and programs; information technology programs; homeland defense and Department of Defense related consequence management programs; related intelligence support; and other enabling programs and activities to include cyber operations, strategic communications, and information operations; and the Cooperative Threat Reduction program.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations: Any matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee, subject to the concurrence of the Chairman of the Committee and, as appropriate, affected subcommittee chairmen. The subcommittee shall have no legislative jurisdiction.

(b) Membership of the Subcommittees

(1) Subcommittee memberships, with the exception of membership on the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, shall be filled in accordance with the rules of the Majority party's conference and the Minority party's caucus, respectively.

(2) The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations shall be filled in accordance with the rules of the Majority party's conference and the Minority party's caucus, respectively. Consistent with the party ratios established by the Majority party, all other Majority members of the subcommittee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee, and all other Minority members shall be appointed by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

(3) The Chairman of the Committee and Ranking Minority Member thereof may sit as ex officio members of all subcommittees. Ex officio members shall not vote in subcommittee hearings or meetings or be taken into consideration for the purpose of determining the ratio of the subcommittees or establishing a quorum at subcommittee hearings or meetings.

(4) A member of the Committee who is not a member of a particular subcommittee may sit with the subcommittee and participate during any of its hearings but shall not have authority to vote, cannot be counted for the purpose of achieving a quorum, and cannot raise a point of order at the hearing.

RULE 5. COMMITTEE PANELS AND TASK FORCES

(a) Committee Panels

(1) The Chairman may designate a panel of the Committee consisting of members of the Committee to inquire into and take testimony on a matter or matters that fall within the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee and to report to the Committee.

(2) No panel appointed by the Chairman shall continue in existence for more than six months after the appointment. A panel so appointed may, upon the expiration of six months, be reappointed by the Chairman for a period of time which is not to exceed six months.

(3) Consistent with the party ratios established by the Majority party, all Majority members of the panels shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee, and all Minority members shall be appointed by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee. The Chairman of the Committee shall choose one of the Majority members so appointed who does not currently chair another subcommittee of the Committee to serve as Chairman of the panel. The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall similarly choose the Ranking Minority Member of the panel.

(4) No panel shall have legislative jurisdiction.

(b) Committee and Subcommittee Task Forces

(1) The Chairman of the Committee, or a Chairman of a subcommittee with the concurrence of the Chairman of the Committee, may designate a task force to inquire into and take testimony on a matter that falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee or subcommittee, respectively. The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or subcommittee shall each appoint an equal number of members to the task force. The Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee shall choose one of the members so appointed, who does not currently chair another subcommittee of the Committee, to serve as Chairman of the task force. The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or subcommittee shall similarly appoint the Ranking Minority Member of the task force.

(2) No task force appointed by the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee shall continue in existence for more than three months. A task force may only be reappointed for an additional three months with the written concurrence of the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or subcommittee whose Chairman appointed the task force.

(3) No task force shall have legislative jurisdiction.

RULE 6. REFERENCE AND CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

- (a) The Chairman shall refer legislation and other matters to the appropriate subcommittee or to the full Committee.
- (b) Legislation shall be taken up for a hearing or markup only when called by the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate, or by a majority of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate.
- (c) The Chairman, with approval of a majority vote of a quorum of the Committee, shall have authority to discharge a subcommittee from consideration of any measure or matter referred thereto and have such measure or matter considered by the Committee.
- (d) Reports and recommendations of a subcommittee may not be considered by the Committee until after the intervention of three calendar days from the time the report is approved by the subcommittee and available to the members of the Committee, except that this rule may be waived by a majority vote of a quorum of the Committee.
- (e) The Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall establish criteria for recommending legislation and other matters to be considered by the House of Representatives, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XV of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Such criteria shall not conflict with the Rules of the House of Representatives and other applicable rules.

RULE 7. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

- (a) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee, or of any subcommittee, panel, or task force, shall make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing or meeting before that body at least one week before the commencement of a hearing and at least three days before the commencement of a meeting. However, if the Chairman of the Committee, or of any subcommittee, panel, or task force, with the concurrence of the respective Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing or meeting sooner, or if the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, such chairman shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. Any announcement made under this rule shall be promptly published in the Daily Digest, promptly entered into the committee scheduling service of the House Information Resources, and promptly made publicly available in electronic form.
- (b) At least 24 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation, or at the time of an announcement under paragraph (a) made within 24 hours before such meeting, the Chairman of the Committee, or of any subcommittee, panel, or task force shall cause the text of such measure or matter to be made publicly available in electronic form as provided in clause 2(g)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 8. BROADCASTING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

(a) Pursuant to clause 2(e)(5) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee shall, to the maximum extent practicable, provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings. The Committee shall maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

(b) Clause 4 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to the Committee.

RULE 9. MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(a) Each hearing and meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, conducted by the Committee, or any subcommittee, panel, or task force, to the extent that the respective body is authorized to conduct markups, shall be open to the public except when the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force in open session and with a majority being present, determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of that hearing or meeting on that day shall be in executive session because disclosure of testimony, evidence, or other matters to be considered would endanger the national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would violate any law or rule of the House of Representatives. Notwithstanding the requirements of the preceding sentence, a majority of those present, there being in attendance no fewer than two members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force may vote to close a hearing or meeting for the sole purpose of discussing whether testimony or evidence to be received would endanger the national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would violate any law or rule of the House of Representatives. If the decision is to proceed in executive session, the vote must be by record vote and in open session, a majority of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force being present.

(b) Whenever it is asserted by a member of the Committee or subcommittee that the evidence or testimony at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, or it is asserted by a witness that the evidence or testimony that the witness would give at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate the witness, notwithstanding the requirements of (a) and the provisions of clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, such evidence or testimony shall be presented in executive session, if by a majority vote of those present, there being in attendance no fewer than two members of the Committee or subcommittee, the Committee or subcommittee determines that such evidence may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person. A majority of those present, there being in attendance no fewer than two members of the Committee or subcommittee may also vote to close the hearing or meeting for the sole purpose of discussing whether evidence or testimony to be received would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person. The Committee or subcommittee shall proceed to receive such testimony in open session only if the Committee or subcommittee, a majority being present, determines that such evidence or testimony will not tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, and with the approval of the Chairman, each member of the Committee may designate by letter to the Chairman, one member of that member's personal staff, and an alternate, which may include fellows, with Top Secret security clearance to attend hearings of the Committee, or that member's subcommittee(s), panel(s), or task force(s) (excluding briefings or meetings held under the provisions of committee rule 9(a)), which have been closed under the provisions of rule 9(a) above for national security purposes for the taking of testimony. The attendance of such a staff member or fellow at such hearings is subject to the approval of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force as dictated by national security requirements at that time. The attainment of any required security clearances is the responsibility of individual members of the Committee.

(d) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, no Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may be excluded from nonparticipatory attendance at any hearing of the Committee or a subcommittee, unless the House of Representatives shall by majority vote authorize the Committee or subcommittee, for purposes of a particular series of hearings on a particular article of legislation or on a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearings to Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner by the same procedures designated in this rule for closing hearings to the public.

(e) The Committee or the subcommittee may vote, by the same procedure, to meet in executive session for up to five additional consecutive days of hearings.

RULE 10. QUORUM

(a) For purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence, two members shall constitute a quorum.

(b) One-third of the members of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking any action, with the following exceptions, in which case a majority of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum:

- (1) Reporting a measure or recommendation;
- (2) Closing Committee or subcommittee meetings and hearings to the public;
- (3) Authorizing the issuance of subpoenas;
- (4) Authorizing the use of executive session material; and
- (5) Voting to proceed in open session after voting to close to discuss whether evidence or testimony to be received would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person.

(c) No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House of Representatives unless a majority of the Committee is actually present.

RULE 11. THE FIVE-MINUTE RULE

(a) Subject to rule 15, the time any one member may address the Committee or subcommittee on any measure or matter under consideration shall not exceed five minutes and then only when the member has been recognized by the Chairman or subcommittee chairman, as appropriate, except that this time limit may be exceeded by unanimous consent. Any member, upon request, shall be recognized for not more than five minutes to address the Committee or subcommittee on behalf of an amendment which the member has offered to any pending bill or resolution. The five-minute limitation shall not apply to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or subcommittee.

(b)(1) Members who are present at a hearing of the Committee or subcommittee when a hearing is originally convened shall be recognized by the Chairman or subcommittee chairman, as appropriate, in order of seniority. Those members arriving subsequently shall be recognized in order of their arrival. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member will take precedence upon their arrival. In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the Chairman shall take into consideration the ratio of the Majority to Minority members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the members of either party.

(2) Pursuant to rule 4 and subject to rule 15, a member of the Committee who is not a member of a subcommittee may be recognized by a subcommittee chairman in order of their arrival and after all present subcommittee members have been recognized.

(3) The Chairman of the Committee or a subcommittee, with the concurrence of the respective Ranking Minority Member, may depart with the regular order for questioning which is specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this rule provided that such a decision is announced prior to the hearing or prior to the opening statements of the witnesses and that any such departure applies equally to the Majority and the Minority.

(c) No person other than a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of Congress and committee staff may be seated in or behind the dais area during Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force hearings and meetings.

RULE 12. POWER TO SIT AND ACT; SUBPOENA POWER

(a) For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee and any subcommittee is authorized (subject to subparagraph (b)(1) of this paragraph):

(1) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold hearings, and

(2) to require by subpoena, or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers and documents, including, but not limited to, those in electronic form, as it considers necessary.

(b)(1) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee, or any subcommittee with the concurrence of the full Committee Chairman and after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, under subparagraph (a)(2) in the conduct of any investigation, or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority of the Committee or subcommittee being present. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed only by the Chairman, or by any member designated by the Committee.

(2) Pursuant to clause 2(m) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, compliance with any subpoena issued by the Committee or any subcommittee under subparagraph (a)(2) may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House of Representatives.

RULE 13. WITNESS STATEMENTS

(a) Any prepared statement to be presented by a witness to the Committee or a subcommittee shall be submitted to the Committee or subcommittee at least 48 hours in advance of presentation and shall be distributed to all members of the Committee or subcommittee as soon as practicable but not less than 24 hours in advance of presentation. A copy of any such prepared statement shall also be submitted to the Committee in electronic form. If a prepared statement contains national security information bearing a classification of Confidential or higher, the statement shall be made available in the Committee rooms to all members of the Committee or subcommittee as soon as practicable but not less than 24 hours in advance of presentation; however, no such statement shall be removed from the Committee offices. The requirement of this rule may be waived by a majority vote of the Committee or subcommittee, a quorum being present. In cases where a witness does not submit a statement by the time required under this rule, the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate, with the concurrence of the respective Ranking Minority Member, may elect to exclude the witness from the hearing.

(b) The Committee and each subcommittee shall require each witness who is to appear before it to file with the Committee in advance of his or her appearance a written statement of the proposed testimony and to limit the oral presentation at such appearance to a brief summary of the submitted written statement.

(c) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(5) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, written witness statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

RULE 14. ADMINISTERING OATHS TO WITNESSES

(a) The Chairman, or any member designated by the Chairman, may administer oaths to any witness.

(b) Witnesses, when sworn, shall subscribe to the following oath:

"Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony you will give before this Committee (or subcommittee) in the matters now under consideration will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"

RULE 15. QUESTIONING OF WITNESSES

(a) When a witness is before the Committee or a subcommittee, members of the Committee or subcommittee may put questions to the witness only when recognized by the Chairman or subcommittee chairman, as appropriate, for that purpose according to rule 11 of the Committee.

(b) Members of the Committee or subcommittee who so desire shall have not more than five minutes to question each witness or panel of witnesses, the responses of the witness or witnesses being included in the five-minute period, until such time as each member has had an opportunity to question each witness or panel of witnesses. Thereafter, additional rounds for questioning witnesses by members are within the discretion of the Chairman or subcommittee chairman, as appropriate.

(c) Questions put to witnesses before the Committee or subcommittee shall be pertinent to the measure or matter that may be before the Committee or subcommittee for consideration.

RULE 16. PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

The transcripts of those hearings conducted by the Committee, subcommittee, or panel will be published officially in substantially verbatim form, with the material requested for the record inserted at that place requested, or at the end of the record, as appropriate. The transcripts of markups conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee may be published officially in verbatim form. Any requests to correct any errors, other than those in transcription, will be appended to the record, and the appropriate place where the change is requested will be footnoted. Any transcript published under this rule shall include the results of record votes conducted in the session covered by the transcript and shall also include materials that have been submitted for the record and are covered under

rule 19. The handling and safekeeping of these materials shall fully satisfy the requirements of rule 20. No transcript of an executive session conducted under rule 9 shall be published under this rule.

RULE 17. VOTING AND ROLLCALLS

- (a) Voting on a measure or matter may be by record vote, division vote, voice vote, or unanimous consent.
- (b) A record vote shall be ordered upon the request of one-fifth of those members present.
- (c) No vote by any member of the Committee or a subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter shall be cast by proxy.
- (d) In the event of a vote or votes, when a member is in attendance at any other committee, subcommittee, or conference committee meeting during that time, the necessary absence of that member shall be so noted in the record vote record, upon timely notification to the Chairman by that member.
- (e) The Chairman of the Committee or a subcommittee, as appropriate, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member or the most senior Minority member who is present at the time, may elect to postpone requested record votes until such time or point at a markup as is mutually decided. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, the underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

RULE 18. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (a) If, at the time of approval of any measure or matter by the Committee, any member of the Committee gives timely notice of intention to file supplemental, Minority, additional or dissenting views, all members shall be entitled to not less than two calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such days) in which to file such written and signed views with the Staff Director of the Committee, or the Staff Director's designee. All such views so filed by one or more members of the Committee shall be included within, and shall be a part of, the report filed by the Committee with respect to that measure or matter.
- (b) With respect to each record vote on a motion to report any measure or matter, and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, the total number of votes cast for and against, the names of those voting for and against, and a brief description of the question, shall be included in the Committee report on the measure or matter.
- (c) Not later than 24 hours after the adoption of any amendment to a measure or matter considered by the Committee, the Chairman shall cause the text of each such amendment

to be made publicly available in electronic form as provided in clause 2(e)(6) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 19. PUBLIC INSPECTION OF COMMITTEE ROLLCALLS

The result of each record vote in any meeting of the Committee shall be made available by the Committee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee and also made publicly available in electronic form within 48 hours of such record vote pursuant to clause 2(e)(1)(B)(i) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Information so available shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition and the names of those members present but not voting.

RULE 20. PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND OTHER INFORMATION

(a) Except as provided in clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, all national security information bearing a classification of Confidential or higher which has been received by the Committee or a subcommittee shall be deemed to have been received in executive session and shall be given appropriate safekeeping.

(b) The Chairman of the Committee shall, with the approval of a majority of the Committee, establish such procedures as in his judgment may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any national security information that is received which is classified as Confidential or higher. Such procedures shall, however, ensure access to this information by any member of the Committee or any other Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives, staff of the Committee, or staff designated under rule 9(c) who have the appropriate security clearances and the need to know, who has requested the opportunity to review such material.

(c) The Chairman of the Committee shall, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, establish such procedures as in his judgment may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any proprietary information that is received by the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force. Such procedures shall be consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives and applicable law.

RULE 21. COMMITTEE STAFFING

The staffing of the Committee, the standing subcommittees, and any panel or task force designated by the Chairman or chairmen of the subcommittees shall be subject to the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 22. COMMITTEE RECORDS

The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of rule VII, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any member of the Committee.

RULE 23. HEARING PROCEDURES

Clause 2(k) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to the Committee.

RULE 24. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORTS

Not later than January 2nd of each odd-numbered year the Committee shall submit to the House a report on its activities, pursuant to clause 1(d) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me just say that the committee rules and the security procedures are largely unchanged from the 114th Congress with one notable exception. In rule IV of the committee rules, the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities has been given jurisdiction over the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which was formerly under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces. That program, when it began, focused on nuclear proliferation. It has shifted its focus to chemical and biological weapons in counterterrorism. That, obviously, fits better with the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats; thus, the rules make that change. Otherwise, they are both substantially similar to what we had before.

Is there any further discussion, questions, regarding the committee rules?

Are there any amendments related—for the committee rules?

If not, the chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Wilson, for the purposes of offering a motion regarding Committee Resolution No. 1, the committee rules.

Mr. WILSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt Committee Resolution No. 1 concerning the committee rules.

The CHAIRMAN. The question occurs on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Wilson.

So many as are in favor, say aye.

Those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it.

A quorum being present, the motion is adopted. Without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

The next order of business is Committee Resolution No. 2, regarding the committee's security procedures for the 115th Congress. I call up Committee Resolution No. 2 and ask the clerk to read the resolution.

Dr. BRIGHT. Committee Resolution No. 2. Resolved, that the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, adopt the committee's security procedures for the 115th Congress, a copy of which has been distributed to each member.

The CHAIRMAN. The security procedures were, again, coordinated with the ranking member and made available to members' offices on Tuesday, January 10. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

Without objection.

SECURITY PROCEDURES
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
115th Congress
(Effective January 12, 2017)

In accordance with committee and House rules, the following procedures are established by the Committee on Armed Services to ensure protection of classified and other sensitive national security information in the possession of the committee.

The following committee and House rules apply to classified information:

COMMITTEE RULE 9(c)

“... with the approval of the Chairman, each member of the Committee may designate by letter to the Chairman, one member of that member's personal staff, and an alternate, which may include fellows, with Top Secret security clearance to attend hearings of the Committee, or that member's subcommittee(s), panel(s), or task force(s) (excluding briefings or meetings held under the provisions of committee rule 9(a)), which have been closed under the provisions of rule 9(a) above for national security purposes for the taking of testimony. The attendance of such a staff member or fellow at such hearings is subject to the approval of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force as dictated by national security requirements at that time. The attainment of any required security clearances is the responsibility of individual members of the Committee.”

RULE 20. PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND OTHER INFORMATION

(a) Except as provided in clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, all national security information bearing a classification of Confidential or higher which has been received by the Committee or a subcommittee shall be deemed to have been received in executive session and shall be given appropriate safekeeping.

(b) The Chairman of the Committee shall, with the approval of a majority of the Committee, establish such procedures as in his judgment may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any national security information that is received which is classified as Confidential or higher. Such procedures shall, however, ensure access to this information by any member of the Committee or any other Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives, staff of the Committee, or staff designated under rule 9(c) who have the appropriate security clearances and the need to know, who has requested the opportunity to review such material.

(c) The Chairman of the Committee shall, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, establish such procedures as in his judgment may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any proprietary information that is received by the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force. Such procedures shall be consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives and applicable law.

HOUSE RULE XXIII: CODE OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

“Before a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House may have access to classified information, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed:

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose any classified information received in the course of my service with the House of Representatives, except as authorized by the House of Representatives or in accordance with its Rules.”

**PROCEDURES FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND STAFF
ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMMITTEE WHO WISH TO READ
CLASSIFIED INFORMATION IN THE POSSESSION OF THE
COMMITTEE**

In addition to House rules, law and regulation, the following procedures shall govern the handling, management and control of classified information. These procedures apply to documents, material, and information provided to the committee by congressional or executive branch entities that bear a classification of confidential, secret, or top secret, including all codeword and special access classified information.

Members and staff of the Committee on Armed Services and 9(c) staff of Members of the Committee on Armed Services:

1. Members of Congress, who are Members of the committee and have signed the *Oath for Access to Classified Information*, shall have access to all classified papers and other materials received by the committee from any source.
2. Armed Services Committee staff members and appropriately cleared personal office staff who are designated under committee rule 9(c), who have signed the *Oath for Access to Classified Information* and have a need to know, may also have access to classified information that is in the possession of the committee and that corresponds with their respective clearance levels.

Members who are NOT Members of the Committee, House Leadership Staff, and Outside Committee Staff:

Members of Congress, who are not Members of the committee, House leadership staff, and outside committee staff may be granted access to classified materials which are in the possession of the committee only in the following manner (these requirements apply whether or not the non-committee Member or any such staff seeks access to classified documents at the invitation of a HASC Member):

1. Written Request Required — Members, House leadership staff, and outside committee staff who desire to examine classified materials in the possession of the committee must submit a request to the Chairman of the committee in writing. Each written request shall specify the classified materials to which access is requested and identify the person or persons for whom such access is requested. Such written requests must bear the signature of the employing member for leadership staff and the relevant committee chairman for outside committee staff.
2. Committee Consideration — The Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Member, shall consider each such request by non-committee Members or staff at the earliest practicable opportunity. The Chairman shall determine what action he

deems appropriate in light of all of the circumstances of each request. In his determination, the Chairman shall consider:

- the sensitivity to the national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States of the information sought;
- the jurisdictional interest of the Member or staff making the request; and
- such other concerns, constitutional or otherwise, as may affect the public interest of the United States.

3. **Chairman Action** — After consideration of the Member or staff request, the Chairman may take any action that he may deem appropriate under the circumstances, including but not limited to:
 - approving the request, in whole or in part;
 - denying the request; or
 - providing the requested information or material in a different form than that sought by the Member or staff.
4. **Requirements for Access by Non-Committee Members or staff** — Prior to a non-committee Member or staff being given access to classified information, the requesting Member or staff shall:
 - affirm in writing that a copy of the oath executed by such Member or staff pursuant to House Rule XXIII, clause 13, is on file with the Clerk of the House of Representatives;
 - agree in writing not to divulge any classified information provided to the Member or staff pursuant to these committee procedures to any person not authorized by House rules, law or regulation; and
 - agree not to divulge such classified information in a non-secure environment; and
 - for staff, provide verification of appropriate security clearances
5. **Consultation Authorized** — When considering a Member or staff request, the Chairman may consult the Secretary of Defense and such other officials as he considers to be necessary.
6. **Finality of Committee Decisions** —
 - Should the Member making such a request disagree with the Chairman's determination with respect to that request, or any part thereof, the Member may request full committee consideration of his/her request by notifying the Chairman in writing of his disagreement with the decision and the Member's request for the committee's consideration and a vote on the request.
 - The committee shall subsequently consider the matter and decide, by record vote, what further action or recommendation, if any, the committee will take.
7. **Notice to Originating Agency** — In the event that the chairman or committee authorizes the disclosure of classified information, which is provided to the

committee by an agency of the executive branch, to a Member who is not a Member of the committee or staff, the Chairman may notify the providing agency of the committee's action prior to the transmission of such classified information.

ALL Members and House Leadership, Outside Committee, and 9(c) Staff
Requesting Access to Classified Information:

1. All classified information will be stored in secure safes in the committee offices or at the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, House Security. Members or staff seeking to review classified information should contact the Staff Director or Deputy Staff Director of the Armed Services Committee and identify the specific classified materials which are requested for review.
2. Any classified information stored by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, House Security remains the property of the committee and shall be subject to the same requirements for access as all other classified materials in the committee's possession.
3. Following consultation with the Staff Director or Deputy Staff Director, access to the classified information will be coordinated with the committee's Security Manager. Classified documents will be made available for review during regular committee business hours (8:30AM- 6:00PM, Monday through Friday).
4. Classified materials may only be reviewed in an appropriately secured space and must remain in the custody of appropriately cleared committee staff or the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, House Security. An appropriately cleared committee staff member will be present while classified information is being reviewed.
5. No reproduction or recordings may be made of any portion of the classified information reviewed by Members of Congress or staff.
6. Any notes made by a Member or by staff must be provided to the committee's Security Manager for proper storage or destruction.
7. In accordance with the applicable laws and regulations, classified information may only be disclosed in an appropriately secured location to individuals with the appropriate level of security clearance and on an established need-to-know basis.
8. Members or staff will be asked to sign the *Access Information Sheet*, a copy of which is attached to this document, if they gain access to classified information.

The committee's Security Manager will maintain the *Access Information Sheet* identifying the material, the staff assigned, and the time of arrival and departure of Members of Congress or staff who were given access to classified information at the request of their respective Member.

9. The committee's Security Manager will ensure that the classified information reviewed by the Member of Congress or staff is returned to the proper custodian and/or secured appropriately.

**PROCEDURES FOR CLASSIFIED HEARINGS AND BRIEFINGS OF
THE COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES**

1. In accordance with the applicable laws and regulations, classified information may only be disclosed to Members of Congress, committee staff, 9(c) staff, House leadership staff, or outside committee staff with the appropriate level of security clearance and an established need-to-know.
2. No classified material provided at a hearing, briefing or meeting may be removed from the secure meeting room.
3. Any notes made by a Member or House leadership, outside committee, or 9(c) staff during a classified hearing or briefing must be provided to the committee's Security Manager at the conclusion of the classified hearing or briefing for proper storage or destruction.
4. No electronic communication devices, including blackberries, cellular phones, and pagers (including 1-way pagers), may be taken into a classified hearing or briefing. Committee staff will make arrangements for the proper safekeeping of such electronic equipment outside the meeting room.

**CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ACCESS INFORMATION SHEET
FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
115th CONGRESS**

Description of Material:

Classification:

Member's Name:

HASC Staff Member Assigned:

Date:

Time In:

Time Out:

I agree not to divulge any classified information provided to me pursuant to the committee's procedures to any person not authorized by House rules, law or regulation. I also agree not to divulge such classified information in a non-secure environment.

Signature, Member of Congress

**CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ACCESS INFORMATION SHEET
FOR MEMBERS NOT ON THE COMMITTEE, HOUSE
LEADERSHIP STAFF, AND OUTSIDE COMMITTEE STAFF**

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
115th CONGRESS**

Description of Material:

Classification:

Name:

Date:

Time In:

Time Out:

I affirm that I have duly executed the oath pursuant to House Rule XXIII, clause 13, and that the oath is on file with the clerk of the House of Representatives. I agree not to divulge any classified information provided to me pursuant to the committee's procedures to any person not authorized by House rules, law or regulation. I also agree not to divulge such classified information in a non-secure environment.

Signature

**CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ACCESS INFORMATION SHEET
FOR 9(c) STAFF OF THE COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
115th CONGRESS**

Description of Material:

Classification:

Member's Name:

HASC Staff Member Assigned:

Date:

Time In:

Time Out:

I, _____, agree not to divulge any classified information provided to me pursuant to the committee's procedures to any person not authorized by House rules, law or regulation. I also agree not to divulge such classified information in a non-secure environment.

Signature, 9(c) staff

The CHAIRMAN. As I said, this is basically the same we had last year. Is there any further discussion of the security procedures?

Are there any amendments to the security procedures?

If not, the chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Wilson, for the purpose of offering a motion.

Mr. WILSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt Committee Resolution No. 2, the security procedures for the 115th Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. The question now occurs on the motion of the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Wilson.

So many as are in favor, say aye.

Those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. A quorum being present, the motion is adopted. Without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

Finally, I call up Committee Resolution No. 3, appointing committee staff for the 115th Congress.

The clerk will read the resolution.

Dr. BRIGHT. Committee Resolution No. 3. Resolved, that the persons listed on the sheet distributed to the members and such other personnel as may be required by the committee within the limits and terms authorized under the Rules of the House of Representatives are hereby appointed to the staff of the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, for the 115th Congress, it being understood that, according to the provisions of law, the chairman will fix the basic salary per annum.

The CHAIRMAN. As many of you know, our committee is unique in that the committee staff is integrated. They are all here to provide advice and counsel to each of you, Republican and Democratic members alike. And I suggest that you take advantage of their talents and expertise. I hate to talk about them because most of them are in the room. But as Mr. Smith said, it is a pretty outstanding group.

A copy of the committee staff for the 115th Congress was prepared in consultation with the ranking member and made available to members' offices on Tuesday, January 10.

I ask unanimous consent the resolution be considered as read.

Without objection.

STAFF - HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Bob Simmons, *Staff Director*
 Jenness Simler, *Deputy Staff Director*
 Andrew Peterson, *General Counsel*
 Betty B. Gray, *Executive Assistant*
 John F. Sullivan, *Professional Staff Member*
 Jesse D. Tolleson, Jr., *Professional Staff Member*
 Paul Arcangeli, *Professional Staff Member*
 Jeanette S. James, *Professional Staff Member*
 Rebecca A. Ross, *Professional Staff Member*
 Heath R. Bope, *Professional Staff Member*
 John Wason, *Professional Staff Member*
 Douglas Bush, *Professional Staff Member*
 Vickie Plunkett, *Professional Staff Member*
 Kevin Gates, *Professional Staff Member*
 David Sicnicki, *Professional Staff Member*
 Zach Steacy, *Director, Legislative Operations*
 Everett Coleman, *Professional Staff Member*
 Craig Greene, *Professional Staff Member*
 Phil MacNaughton, *Professional Staff Member*
 Jack Schuler, *Professional Staff Member*
 John N. Johnson, *Staff Assistant*
 William S. Johnson, *Counsel*
 Jaime Cheshire, *Professional Staff Member*
 Peter Villano, *Professional Staff Member*
 Leonor Tomero, *Counsel*
 Catherine Sendak, *Professional Staff Member*
 Christopher J. Bright, *Professional Staff Member*
 Brian Garrett, *Professional Staff Member*
 Elizabeth Conrad, *Professional Staff Member*
 Andrew T. Walter, *Professional Staff Member*
 Claude Chafin, *Communications Director*
 Tim Morrison, *Counsel*
 Stephen Kitay, *Professional Staff Member*
 Katie Thompson, *Security Manager*
 Alexander Gallo, *Professional Staff Member*
 David Giachetti, *Professional Staff Member*
 Kari Bingen, *Professional Staff Member*
 Lindsay Kavanaugh, *Professional Staff Member*
 Candace Wagner, *Executive Assistant*
 Alison Lynn, *Spokesman and Director of Member Initiatives*
 Mark Morehouse, *Professional Staff Member*
 Nick Mikula, *Press Secretary*
 Craig Collier, *Professional Staff Member*
 Bruce Johnson, *Professional Staff Member*
 Daniel Sennott, *Professional Staff Member*
 Mike Gancio, *Clerk*
 Nevada Schadler, *Clerk*
 Andrew "Drew" Warren, *Professional Staff Member*
 Margaret Dean, *Professional Staff Member*
 Bob Daigle, *Professional Staff Member*
 Alexis Lasselle Ross, *Professional Staff Member*
 Katy Quinn, *Professional Staff Member*
 Britton Burkett, *Clerk*
 Barron YoungSmith, *Counsel*
 Matthew Sullivan, *Counsel*
 Emily Murphy, *Counsel*
 Anna Waterfield, *Research Assistant*
 Jodi Brignola, *Clerk*
 Brian Greer, *Professional Staff Member*
 Jason Schmid, *Professional Staff Member*
 Megan Handal, *Clerk*
 Andy Schulman, *Professional Staff Member*
 Danielle Steitz, *Clerk*

The CHAIRMAN. Is there any further discussion about the committee staff?

If not, the chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina for the purposes of offering a motion.

Mr. WILSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt Committee Resolution No. 3, regarding committee staffing for the 115th Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. The question now occurs on the motion of the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Wilson.

So many as are in favor, say aye.

Those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. The ayes have it.

A quorum being present, the motion is adopted, and without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

Without objection, committee staff is authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the action of the committee in adopting Committee Resolutions 1, 2, and 3.

And if the ranking member has no further comments at this point, the committee stands adjourned for this business portion.

[Whereupon, at 2:18 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]

